

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SS-20 L-03 RSC-01 /054 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:GJB

APPROVED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN

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R 192033Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, US. CG

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL GRAIN

REF: KINSHASA 2330, MARCH 15.

1. SUBSTANCE REFTEL PASSED EGGERS, WHO EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION AMBASSADOR'S CONTINUING EFFORTS ON MIDEMA'S BEHALF.
 2. LELEU JOB HAS BEEN OFFERED TO ANDRE ABRAJANO, DIRECTOR OF CONTINENTAL PLANT IN CARIBBEAN AND ACCORDING EGGERS ONLY AMCIT IN CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION WITH NECESSARY BACKGROUND FOR JOB WHO ALSO SPEAKS FRENCH. ABRAJANO WILL ARRIVE KINSHASA LATER THIS WEEK TO RECONNOITER SITUATION BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION. WILL CALL AT EMBASSY.
 3. EGGER EXPLAINED WHEAT SHORTAGE CAUSED BY DELAY OF VESSEL ORIGINALLY DUE MATADI MARCH 10, NOW DUE MARCH 23. CONTINENTAL HAS LONG-TERM CONTRACT FOR DELIVERIES BY CARGO LINER APPROXIMATELY EVERY TWO WEEKS BUT CANNOT PREVENT DELAYS IN LINER SAILINGS. SHIPMENT BY CHARTER VESSEL ALLEGEDLY UNECONOMIC DUE DRAFT/TONNAGE LIMITATION MATADI HARBOR (4500 TONS) AND ABSENCE ASSURED RETURN CARGOES. SINCE COLLAPSE OF SILO LAST JULY LOCAL STORAGE CAPACITY HAS BEEN TOO LIMITED TO PERMIT MAINTENANCE OF BUFFER STOCK LARGE ENOUGH TO ELIMINATE IMPACT OF SHIPMENT IRREGULARITIES.
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PRESENT SHORTAGE SHOULD BE COMPLETELY RELIEVED WITH ARRIVAL

13,000 TO 14,000 TONS IN THREE SHIPMENTS DUE MATADI
MARCH 23, MARCH 30 AND APRIL 22. AS SOON AS MARCH 23
SHIPMENT IN HAND, MILL WILL UP OUTPUT TO 110 PER CENT
NORMAL FULL PRODUCTION. REPAIR OF SILO, TO BE COMPLETED
IN MAY, WILL BRING LOCAL STORAGE CAPACITY BACK UP TO
15,000 TONS NEEDED FOR BUFFER STOCK.

4. EGGER REPORTED INFORMATION FROM HIS PEOPLE IN KINSHASA
THAT IN ADDITION 25,000 TONS OF FLOUR FOR WHICH LITHO
HAS IRREVOCABLE LETTERS OF CREDIT AND IMPORT OF WHICH
PRESUMABLY CANNOT BE STOPPED, ANOTHER 25,000 TONS HAS
BEEN LICENSED FOR IMPORT. HE ALSO HAS REPORT OF "RUMOR"
THAT SALE OF IMPORTED FLOUR WILL BE SUBSIDIZED BY
GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT SALE AT OR BELOW MIDEMA PRICE.
EGGERS SAID THAT WHILE MIDEMA COULD LIVE WITH IMPORTATION
OF FIRST 25,000 TONS, EFFECT OF SECOND 25,000 ON
COMPANY'S BUSINESS WOULD BE "ABSOLUTELY DEADLY",
PARTICULARLY IF SALE SUBSIDIZED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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